PATENT

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

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DATE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

SIGNATURE

Alan E. Shluzas

Serial No.

10/087,489

Filing Date

March 1, 2002

For

AN APPARATUS FOR

CONNECTING A LONGITUDINAL MEMBER TO A BONE PORTION

Group Art Unit

3732

Examiner

Ramana Anuradha

Attorney Docket No.

A31-6015

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 16, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 12 of this paper.

01/13/2004 EFLORES 00000088 10087489

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